

# WHEN PLANS CHANGE

2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-24

# Introduction

**This section of the letter  
was written because  
Paul had promised to  
come see the  
Corinthians (in 1  
Corinthians) and had  
not been able to do it.**

Therefore, some people  
in the church were  
saying, "*Paul is a liar!  
He promised to come  
visit us and he didn't do  
it. You can't trust him!*"

**I. (12-16) Paul was sincere in his promise to come visit them.**

**(2 Corinthians 1:12) For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.**

**conversation = way of  
life**

**(2 Corinthians 1:12) For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.**

**simplicity = the virtue  
of one who is free  
from pretense and  
hypocrisy (Thayer)**

(2 Corinthians 1:12) For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

**"For to them he had been especially particular, that in no point they should speak of him as having used the wisdom of words. Among them, he determined not to know anything save Jesus Christ and him crucified; to them, he was like the nurse who administers milk to babes." (Spurgeon)**

**(1 Corinthians 2:2) For  
I determined not to  
know any thing among  
you, save Jesus Christ,  
and him crucified.**

**(2 Corinthians 1:13) For  
we write none other  
things unto you, than  
what ye read or  
acknowledge; and I trust  
ye shall acknowledge  
even to the end;**

**Paul wanted the  
Corinthian Christians to  
know he had no “hidden  
meanings” in his letters.**

**His meaning was right  
out on top, for all to see.**

**(Guzik)**

(2 Corinthians 1:14)

As also ye have  
acknowledged us in  
part, that we are your  
rejoicing, even as ye  
also are ours in the  
day of the Lord Jesus.

**(1 Thessalonians 2:19)**

**For what is our hope, or  
joy, or crown of  
rejoicing? Are not even  
ye in the presence of  
our Lord Jesus Christ at  
his coming?**

**(2 Corinthians 1:15)**

**And in this confidence  
I was minded to come  
unto you before, that  
ye might have a  
second benefit;**

**(2 Corinthians 1:16) And  
to pass by you into  
Macedonia, and to come  
again out of Macedonia  
unto you, and of you to  
be brought on my way  
toward Judaea.**

**I. (12-16) Paul was sincere in his promise to come visit them.**

II. (17-22) Paul was  
not duplicitous.

*His "yes" meant "yes"  
and "no" meant "no."*

(2 Corinthians 1:17) When I  
therefore was thus minded,  
did I use lightness? or the  
things that I purpose, do I  
purpose according to the  
flesh, that with me there  
should be yea yea, and nay  
nay?

"do I say *yes* when I  
really mean *no*?"

**(2 Corinthians 1:18)**

**But as God is true,**

**our word toward you  
was not yea and nay.**

Paul uses God's  
sincerity as proof of  
his own.

**(2 Corinthians 1:19) For  
the Son of God, Jesus  
Christ, who was preached  
among you by us, even by  
me and Silvanus and  
Timotheus, was not yea  
and nay, but in him was  
yea.**

**Silvanus = Silas**

**(2 Corinthians 1:20)**

**For all the promises of  
God in him are yea,  
and in him Amen, unto  
the glory of God by us.**

**Christ is faithful to keep his promises. There is no contradiction in them. Paul uses Christ's faithfulness and truthfulness as proof of his own.**

**(2 Corinthians 1:21)**

**Now he which  
stablisheth us with  
you in Christ, and hath  
anoointed us, is God;**

annoint = *chriō* enduing  
Christians with the gifts  
of the Holy Spirit (Thayer)

(2 Corinthians 1:22)

Who hath also sealed  
us, and given the  
earnest of the Spirit in  
our hearts.

**"The seal indicates security, and the earnest is a guarantee that God will fulfill His promises." (Ryrie)**

**“I send you a box of very excellent grapes and a basket of excellent dates under seal.”**

**“I gave the letter sealed (to the messenger) on the 12th...**

**“all these were inside the brown tunic, and it was sealed with white clay.”**

**(2 Corinthians 1:22)**

**Who hath also sealed  
us, and given the  
earnest of the Spirit in  
our hearts.**

(2Co 1:22) And He has  
also set His seal upon  
us, and has put His  
Spirit into our hearts as  
a pledge and foretaste  
of future  
blessing. (Weymouth)

**The Holy Spirit guarantees that we belong to God and will receive all his benefits (Eph. 1:13-14). The Holy Spirit guarantees that salvation is ours now, and that we will receive so much more when Christ returns.**

**The great comfort and power the Holy Spirit gives in this life is a foretaste or down payment ("first installment") of the benefits of our eternal life in God's presence. (LASB)**

It is God, says Paul,  
who has done all this  
for us and God is  
Paul's pledge that he  
is sincere. He will  
come to Corinth in due  
time... (Robertson)

**I. (12-16) Paul was sincere in his promise to come visit them.**

II. (17-22) Paul was  
not duplicitous.

*His "yes" meant "yes"  
and "no" meant "no."*

**III. (23-24) Paul was doing them a favor by not coming to Corinth because he was angry.**

**(2 Corinthians 1:23)**

**Moreover I call God  
for a record upon my  
soul, that to spare  
you I came not as yet  
unto Corinth.**

**(2 Corinthians 1:24)**

**Not for that we have  
dominion over your  
faith, but are helpers  
of your joy: for by  
faith ye stand.**

# When Plans Change

1. Don't assume that someone who tells you something and then does something else is a liar. Look at their overall character.
2. You can trust God to do what He says He will do!
3. Don't think that if God does not immediately fulfill his promises that he has forgotten about you or will not do what he said. God will fulfill his promises, even if it takes a long time.